



TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, March 28, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Members: Fred Jung (Chair); Newell Arnerich (Vice Chair); Robert Armijo; Phil Bacerra; Greg Barton; Liz Becerra; Chelsea Byers; John Campbell; Sonia Carter; Jennifer Cervantez; Connie Cochran; Shannon DeLong; Justin Ezell; Peggy Flynn; Anders Fung; Thomas Gaffery; Jeremy Gerson; Jennifer Gutierrez; Kerry Hillis; Mike Isom; Fred Jung; Chris Kelley; Trish Kelley; Marilyn Librers; Brian McCarthy; Jennifer Mendoza; Joshua Nelson; Adolfo Ozaeta; Kelli Pickler; Cameron Sasai; Kristine Scott; Helen Tran; Alex Trinidad; Nathan Vosburg; Scott Wolfe; Cesar Zepeda

Partners: Alicia Berhow; Sergio Jimenez

Staff: Waleed Hojeij, Legislative Affairs and Policy Analyst
Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs Advocate
Jason Rhine, Director of Legislative Affairs

I. General Briefing

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a General Briefing Update, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Fred Jung, Mayor of Fullerton, and Vice-Chair Newell Arnerich, Vice Mayor of Danville, welcomed and thanked members for their participation.

III. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

IV. Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff provided an overview and update on priority legislation within the Transportation, Communication, and Public Works portfolio. [A list of the most important bills can be found linked here.](#)

V. Cal Cities Fire Chiefs Department NLC Update

Cal Cities staff presented on the growing trend surrounding fire apparatus acquisition delays and rising costs. Drawing from a recent Cal Cities survey, lengthy delivery timelines and escalating prices for fire apparatuses are straining local budgets and delaying frontline emergency response capabilities. Cal Cities staff shared with the committee both state and federal engagement of the issue and is working on potential policy solutions.

VI. Southern California Edison – Power Shutoffs

Southern California Edison (SCE) provided a presentation regarding Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) programs and protocols. The presentation provided an overview of public safety power shutoffs and empathized that utilities use these types of power

shutoffs as a tool of last resort to protect the public. SCE detailed how specific wind speed thresholds, fire potential indices, and circuit-specific risk factors trigger shutoffs. SCE outlined programs to support affected communities and critical infrastructure, including battery backup rebates, generator incentives, medical device accommodations, and community resource centers. The committee highlighted the operational and public safety challenges that cities face during PSPS events and underscored the need for improved backup power solutions.

VII. Bill Analysis

Cal Cities presented on AB 939, which would enact the Safe, Sustainable, Traffic-Reducing Transportation Bond Act of 2026 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$20 billion to finance transit, local streets and roads and active transportation projects, zero-emission vehicle investments, transportation freight infrastructure improvements, and grade separations.

The committee broadly supported the intent of the bond—investing in statewide transportation infrastructure, promoting climate-friendly mobility, and providing funding opportunities for local governments. However, members raised several key concerns, particularly regarding timing and fiscal implications. Members of the committee expressed significant apprehension about asking voters to approve a large statewide bond in the near term, especially given potential competing regional measures. Specifically, members highlighted anticipated transportation-related bonds in both the Los Angeles Metro and Bay Area Metro regions, which could create voter fatigue and reduce the likelihood of any single bond passing.

Committee members also expressed caution about the long-term tax implications for constituents, particularly during a time of economic uncertainty and competing funding needs. The discussion acknowledged the value of the proposed investments but emphasized the need for a strategic approach that accounts for the political and fiscal environment.

Given these concerns, the committee unanimously agreed by voice vote to defer any formal support for AB 939 and recommended reconsidering support for a similar statewide bond in two years, when there may be less competition on the ballot and greater clarity on voter appetite.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Next Meeting - Virtually: Friday, June 13, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.